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Amendment
Attorney Docket No. S63.2B-10062-US01

Amendments To The Claims:

1-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a medical device balloon comprising

preparing a polymer composition in melt form, and then

extruding ~~[[a]]~~ the polymer composition to form tubing and

blowing a segment of the tubing to form the balloon,

without remelting the composition.

wherein the step of preparing the polymer composition in melt form comprises

forming a melted reaction ~~is the reaction product of a melt mixture comprising~~

a) at least one terminally reactive polymer and

b) a chain extender and

reacting the reaction mixture.

18. (original) A method as in claim 17 wherein the terminally reactive polymer has at least one terminal active hydrogen and/or carboxylic acid group thereon.

19. (original) A method as in claim 17 wherein the terminally reactive polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyesters; polyamides; polyurethanes; block copolymers incorporating a polyester, polyamide, polyurethane and/or polyether segment.

20. (original) A method as in claim 19 wherein the polymer composition further comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of polyolefins, poly(meth)acrylate esters, silicones, and organic rubbers.

21. (original) A method as in claim 17 wherein the chain extender comprises a bis-lactam compound.

22. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 21 wherein the bis-lactam compound is employed in said ~~melt~~ reaction mixture in an amount of from about 0.1 % to about 5% by weight of the terminally reactive polymer.

23. (original) A method as in claim 21 wherein the bis-lactam compound is a member selected from the group consisting of N,N'-isophthaloyl bis-caprolactam, N,N'-adipoyl bis-caprolactam, N,N'-terephthaloyl bis-lauro lactam, N,N'-isophthaloyl bis-butyrolactam, carbonyl bis-caprolactam and mixtures thereof.

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24. (original) A method as in claim 17 wherein the chain extender comprises a bis-oxazoline and/or bis-oxazine compound.
25. (original) A method as in claim 24 wherein the bisoxazoline and/or bisoxazine compound is a member selected from the group consisting of 2,2'-bis(2-oxazoline), 2,2-bis(4-methyl-2-oxazoline), 2,2'-bis(4-phenyl-2-oxazoline), 2,2'-bis(4-hexyloxazoline), 2,2'-p-phenylene bis(2-oxazoline), 2,2'-m-phenylene bis(2-oxazoline), 2,2'-tetramethylene bis(4,4'-dimethyl-2-oxazoline) 2,2'-bis(2-oxazine), 2,2-bis(4-methyl-2-oxazine), 2,2'-bis(4-phenyl-2-oxazine), 2,2'-bis(4-hexyloxazine), 2,2'-p-phenylene bis(2-oxazine), 2,2'-m-phenylene bis(2-oxazine), 2,2'-tetramethylene bis(4,4'-dimethyl-2-oxazine) and mixtures thereof.
26. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 24 wherein the bis-oxazoline and/or bis-oxazine compound is employed in said ~~melt reaction~~ mixture in an amount of from about 0.1% to about 4% by weight of the terminally reactive polymer.
27. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 17 wherein the chain extender is incorporated into said ~~melt reaction~~ mixture in an amount which increases polymer molecular weight but does not substantially promote or induce crosslinking.
28. (cancelled)
29. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a medical device comprising
preparing a polymer composition in melt form, and then
forming at least a portion of the device from a ~~thermoplastic~~ the polymer composition
without remelting the composition,
wherein the step of preparing the polymer composition in melt form comprises
forming a melted reaction polymer composition is the reaction product of a melt mixture
comprising
a) at least one terminally reactive thermoplastic polymer, and
b) a chain extender and.
reacting the reaction mixture.
30. (original) A method as in claim 29 wherein the terminally reactive polymer has at least one active hydrogen and/or carboxylic acid group thereon.
31. (original) A method as in claim 29 wherein said step of forming at least a portion of

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the device from a thermoplastic polymer composition comprises extruding a tube of said polymer composition.

32. (original) A method as in claim 31 wherein the medical device is a catheter or a balloon.

33. (original) A method as in claim 29 wherein the medical device is a balloon, the method further comprising blowing a segment of the extruded tube at an elevated temperature and pressure to form the balloon.

34. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 29 wherein the chain extender is incorporated into said ~~melt~~ reaction mixture in an amount which increases polymer molecular weight but does not substantially promote or induce crosslinking.

35. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 31 wherein said tubing is extruded from an extruder and said ~~melt~~ reaction mixture is prepared in the extruder.

36. (Currently amended) A method claim 17 wherein said tubing is extruded from an extruder and said ~~melt~~ reaction mixture is prepared in the extruder.